

"Dear Honorable Members of the Select Committee on Children,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB12-5184, AAC Dissection Choice.

[Some talking points:

--Dissection choice provides students with the opportunity to participate in high quality biology education activities without participating in instructional methods that involve the killing of animals, allowing students to learn without violating their ethical beliefs.

--Dissection alternatives have been shown to teach anatomy and biology as well as or better than dissection.

--The overwhelming majority (>90%) of medical schools (including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Stanford) have eliminated animal-based methods in teaching. Computer-based methods and anatomical simulators are already being used for teaching everything from basic physiology to hands-on trauma care and even microsurgical techniques.

--Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies.]

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

*Patricia Daponte*

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